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4/1/05

1 CLAIM AMENDMENTS

2 Claim 1 - (currently amended)
3 Claim 2 - (canceled)
4 Claim 3 - (previously canceled)
5 Claim 4 - (previously canceled)
6 Claim 5 - (original)
7 Claim 6 - (original)
8 Claim 7 - (original)
9 Claim 8 - (currently amended)
10 Claim 9 - (canceled)
11 Claim 10 - (previously canceled)
12 Claim 11 - (previously canceled)
13 Claim 12 - (new)

14 1. (currently amended) A linear measuring device comprising:

15 a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

16 a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral
17 configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

18 an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length
19 as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on
20 said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to
21 project outwards from said tape housing;

22 a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward
23 tongue hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape with said forward tongue
24 extending forwards therefrom, said forward tongue being pivotable between a retracted
25 position in general parallel alignment with and contacting said measuring tape and an
26 extended position extending outwards generally parallel with said measuring tape, said outer
27 end of said forward tongue being generally free of projecting objects mounted thereon
28 whereby said outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow
 openings;